the case if fired from the shoulder, because the man was going down hill. All these facts did not leave any doubt in our mind. We did not see the necessity of a new trial, and the judge having reported as he did, we thought the case conclusive.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I will have to say a few words in reply to the hon. gentleman (Sir Louis Davies), as he has been good enough to speak of the spirit in which I dealt with this matter. If I made any remark about the hon. gentleman not giving the facts correctly, I hope he will pardon me. I think I approached this matter in a perfectly fair spirit. I endeavoured to do so, and not to be extravagant in the statements I made. The hon. gentleman has stated, as the last of the reasons on which he depends, that the story of the boy as given in this statement is consistent with the evidence at the trial. I do not suppose that the hon. gentleman understands the evidence better than Mr. Justice Ritchie, who presided. I do not know whether he claims that he does or not. I have pointed out, as he would have understood if he had done me the honour to listen to me, that the trial judge says the story is not consistent with the evidence given at the trial. Therefore, that part of the hon. gentleman's reasons go. Then the hon. gentleman says that it could not be a case of manslaughter. The hon. gentleman speaks of the great experience of the gentlemen who are members of the Government. I do not deny their experience. But I do not know that any of them has had more experience than Mr. Justice Ritchie, or that any of them knows more of the case than he. In the report which I read in the hon. gentleman's hearing, and which he has apparently forgotten, the judge said that the verdict should have been a verdict of manslaughter.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I did not see it. That report was not before us.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). If the hon. gentleman had not been in such a hurry——

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. We had the judge's formal report which he sent in answer to the request that he should give an opinion.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I should think that in dealing with a matter of such importance as this, after sending the confession to the trial judge, they would await his answer before letting the man out of jail. If they had had the patience to wait two days longer, they would have had the report of the trial judge, in which he said that the verdict should have been manslaughter, a verdict which the hon. gentleman says is preposterous. Does the hon. gentleman say that he understands the criminal law better than Mr. Justice Ritchie?

Sir LOUIS DAVIES.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Who is he?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). He is judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. Would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Borden) have given a verdict of manslaughter?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I would have agreed with Mr. Justice Ritchie that the verdict should have been nothing less than manslaughter, and only by distorting the facts would it be possible to make anything less out of it. Mr. Justice Ritchie is entitled to the respect of the Government and the country of which he is the judge. And, when I quote the statement of the trial judge that the verdict should have been one of manslaughter, I make the best possible answer to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries that a verdict of manslaughter would be preposterous.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. To whom did he make that report?

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). To the Minister of Justice. And, if the Government had waited two days, they would have had that report before them. And the hon. gentleman stands up and tells Mr. Justice Ritchie that his opinion of this case is preposterous. That is the effect of it. To say that his opinion of this case, after trying it, and with his experience on the bench for fifteen years, with a very much longer experience, I venture to say, than the hon. Minister in both civil and criminal practice, is preposterous, is really an extraordinary justification——

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I took his own report.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). I am taking his own report, too.

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. You can reconcile them, perhaps.

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). His own report, made in answer to the Minister of Justice, says that in his opinion the jury should have found a verdict of manslaughter. The hon. gentleman talks about courtesy, but I do not think there is very much courtesy in standing up and saying that the opinion of a learned judge——

The MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES. I hope my hon. friend will not say that I said that about Mr. Justice Ritchie. I never heard of this report that the hon. gentleman speaks of. I read Mr. Justice Ritchie's report that the evidence was consistent with the man's innocence, and if so, he could not be convicted of manslaughter.